GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3738
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2015
Welfare Board for Transgenders
Patil Shri A.T. (Nana)

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to constitute a National Level Welfare Board for transgenders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
(d) the steps taken by the Government to protect and ensure rights for transgenders as well as reservations in education and employment for them?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA)
(a) to (c): Presently the Government does not propose to constitute a National Level Welfare Board for Transgender Persons. However, an Expert Committee was constituted in the Ministry to make an in-depth study of the problems being faced by the Transgender Community and suggest suitable measures to ameliorate their problems. The Committee submitted its report on 27th January 2014. The recommendations of the Committee, inter-alia, include formulation of an Umbrella scheme for rehabilitation, socio-economic & educational empowerment of the community, a State level authority duly designated or constituted by the respective States/UTs on the lines of Tamil Nadu Transgender Welfare Board, intensive publicity campaigns etc.
(d): The Ministry has constituted an Inter Ministerial Committee to pursue implementation of the Expert Committee's recommendations. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its Judgment dated 15.04.2014 in WP No. 400/2012 filed by National Legal Services Authority (NLSA) Vs Union of India has inter-alia, directed Centre and the State Governments to take steps to treat transgender persons as socially and educationally backward classes of citizens and extend all kinds of reservation in cases of admission in educational institutions and for public appointments. Subsequently, this Department has sought clarification in Supreme Court regarding, inter-alia, inclusion of transgender persons belonging to SC/ST category by birth into the OBC category. The matter is presently sub-jucice.